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HOUSE MEMORIAL 56

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2005

INTRODUCED BY

Sheryl Williams Stapleton

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING VINCENTE T. XIMENES' COMMITMENT TO ADVOCACY FOR
HISTORICALLY UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS.

WHEREAS, Vicente T. Ximenes was born on December 5, 1919
in Floresville, Texas; and

WHEREAS, Vicente T. Ximenes is a 1939 graduate of
Floresville high school, attended the university of Texas,
completed a bachelor's degree in education and a master's
degree in economics from the university of New Mexico and
received an honorary Ph.D. in humane letters from New Mexico
highlands university; and

WHEREAS, he was appointed as a United States air corps
cadet and was an officer graduate, second lieutenant, at the
bombardier school at Kirtland air base; and

WHEREAS, Vicente T. Ximenes served his country in World

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1 War II as a flying officer, completing fifty combat missions
2 over north Africa and Italy, as bombardier in a B-17 flying
3 fortress; and

4 WHEREAS, Vicente T. Ximenes was awarded the distinguished
5 flying cross and air medal, was a cadet flight instructor and
6 squadron leader at the bombardier school at San Angelo air
7 base, Texas, before retiring as an Air Force major from fort
8 Sam Houston hospital, San Antonio, Texas, in 1947; and

9 WHEREAS, his professional career reflects an illustrious
10 and distinguished life of service beginning as a chief company
11 clerk in the civilian conservation corps, then as an elementary
12 school principal in Picoso, Texas, continuing after World War
13 II as a research associate at the university of New Mexico
14 bureau of business research, followed by a position with the
15 United States agency of international development in Quito,
16 Ecuador, as program officer and economist; and

17 WHEREAS, upon return to the United States, Vincent T.
18 Ximenes accepted the position of director of the viva Johnson-
19 Humphrey clubs of America for the democratic national committee
20 in Washington, D.C., and subsequently, as assistant inspector
21 general for the office of economic opportunity. He then
22 returned to the United States agency of international
23 development to serve as deputy director in Panama City, Panama;
24 and

25 WHEREAS, called back to Washington, Vincente T. Ximenes

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1 was appointed by President Lyndon Johnson to be chairman of the
2 president's cabinet committee on Mexican-American affairs and
3 as United States commissioner of equal employment; and

4 WHEREAS, as chairman of the cabinet committee on
5 Mexican-American affairs, he was able to institutionalize
6 affirmative action plans for Hispanics in all the federal
7 government agencies with the assistance of John Macy, the
8 commissioner of civil service; and

9 WHEREAS, Vicente T. Ximenes directed the historic El Paso
10 hearings in October 1967 that were the turning point in the
11 goal to become part of the mainstream of the United States for
12 the Hispanics in the nation; and

13 WHEREAS, his final civil service position, before becoming
14 a private consultant in equal employment, was as vice president
15 for field operations for the national urban coalition; and

16 WHEREAS, his civic volunteer services are as impressive as
17 his professional accomplishments and include: serving on the
18 boards of reading is fundamental, the catholic university of
19 Albuquerque and the Albuquerque human rights board; founder of
20 the American GI forum of New Mexico; national chairman of the
21 American GI forum of the United States; appointed by President
22 Jimmy Carter as commissioner of white house fellows; and
23 chairman of New Mexico youth conservation corps commission; and

24 WHEREAS, Vicente T. Ximenes is the recipient of numerous
25 awards including: the common cause public service achievement

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1 award, the state of New Mexico distinguished service award, the
2 Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Panama's highest honor and awarded by
3 the president of Panama; the Aztec award by the
4 Mexican-American opportunity foundation; the Albuquerque human
5 rights bridge award by the Albuquerque human rights board; and
6 the De Colores lifetime achievement award by the De Colores
7 board of directors; and

8 WHEREAS, Vincente T. Ximenes has enjoyed the love and
9 support of his wife, Maria, and his three children, Ricardo,
10 Olivia and Ana Maria, and cherishes his memories of his late
11 son, Estevan;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that Vicente T.
14 Ximenes be recognized for his record of advocacy for
15 historically under-represented groups and legacy of promotion
16 of social justice; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that his awareness that civil
18 rights reform is not a once-done-always-done endeavor be shared
19 with all New Mexicans; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this memorial be
21 transmitted to Vicente T. Ximenes.